

PUBLIC NOTICE
The Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Fishing and Boating Services
Commercial Mature Female Hard Crab Catch Limits — July through December 2023

WHAT THIS NOTICE DOES

The Secretary of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, in consultation with blue crab advisory groups, announces the commercial mature female hard crab catch limits for the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries for July through December 2023. Effective 12:01 a.m. July 1, 2023, the bushel limits are:

Daily Mature Female Hard Crab Bushel Limits by License Type				
Date	LCC	TFL or CB3	TFL with CB6 or CB3 with CB6	TFL with CB9 or CB3 with CB9
July 1 - August 31, 2023	2	10	14	18
September 1 - October 31, 2023	5	19	29	34
November 1 - November 30, 2023	2	5	10	15
December 1 - December 15, 2023 — No Female Hard Crab Harvest Allowed				
The above acronyms stand for: LCC – Limited Crab Harvester License 50 pots; CB3 – Crab Harvester License 300 pots; CB6 – 600 pot authorization; CB9 – 900 pot authorization; and TFL – Unlimited Tidal Fish License				

Mature female hard crab bushel limits are based on results of the winter crab dredge survey conducted by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and Virginia Institute of Marine Science, and consultation with advisory groups and stakeholders.

Crew limits as described in Annotated Code of Maryland, Natural Resources Article, §4-814, are in effect. If crew members are not on board, then the licensee is restricted to the TFL or CB3 bushel limits.

WHERE THIS NOTICE APPLIES

This applies to the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries, including the Maryland tributaries of the Potomac River.

WHY THIS IS NECESSARY

This action is necessary to ensure female blue crab harvest does not exceed the Chesapeake Bay exploitation fraction threshold established in Amendment 2 to the Chesapeake Bay Blue Crab Fishery Management Plan.

WHO THIS NOTICE AFFECTS

This applies to commercial crabbers who harvest female blue crabs in the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries.

AUTHORITY

Code of Maryland Regulations 08.02.03.14G.

Josh Kurtz
Secretary of Natural Resources